



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH  
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## News Release

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## Getting Kids Prevention that Works Heads Board Agenda

*Wednesday, December 10, 9:30 a.m.—4:15 p.m., Hilton Seattle Airport & Conference Center, Seatac*

Immunizations, well-child checks, behavioral screenings and more comprise the list of proven preventive health services that all children should have access to, according to the State Board of Health. Improving access to clinical preventive health services was a priority in Washington's 2002 State Health Report, but budget cuts, barriers in clinical settings, and shifting priorities in government may threaten universal access to these services—even though they are covered by most publicly purchased health plans.

The State Board of Health will hear about several ways to increase the delivery of preventive care for children at its December 10 meeting. Dr. Carl Plonsky, M.D. of Tacoma will discuss how he changed his clinic's practice to produce among the highest rates of clinical preventive services in the state. Two Public Health—Seattle & King County representatives, Health Action Plan leader Susan Johnson and Policy Analyst Kirsten Wysen, will review the Kids Get Care program. Barbara Lantz with the Department of Social and Health Services Medical Assistance Administration will discuss challenges it faces in improving access to these services in this time of continually shrinking public budgets. The Board will consider a request that it support a statewide initiative to establish financial incentives for receipt of children's clinical preventive services within state purchased health plans.

Other December topics include an update from the Department of Ecology (DOE) on its Mercury Chemical Action Plan, a presentation from DOE Interim Deputy Director, Polly Zehm, on recent health-related initiatives, consideration of the draft 2004 State Health Report, and more.

Copies of the agenda and related materials are available by contacting the Board of Health at (360) 236-4110 or by visiting the Board's Web site at [www.doh.wa.gov/sboh/](http://www.doh.wa.gov/sboh/).

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The State Board of Health serves the citizens of Washington by working to understand and prevent disease across the entire population. Established in 1889 by the State Constitution, the Board provides leadership by suggesting public health policies and actions, by regulating certain activities, and by providing a public forum. The governor appoints ten members who fill three-year terms. Visit the board's Web site at [www.doh.wa.gov/sboh/](http://www.doh.wa.gov/sboh/).